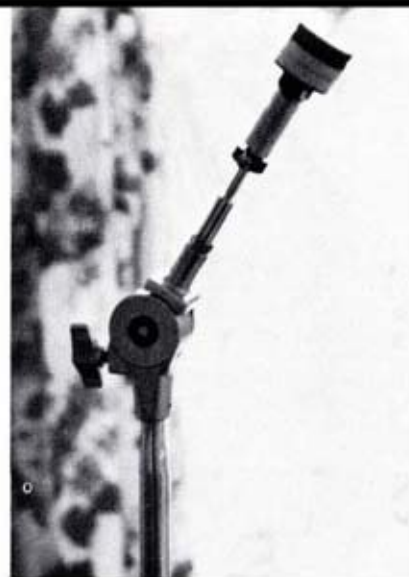


Aquarian Accessories



by Bob Saydlowski, Jr.

Drum accessory manufacturers are cropping up by the dozens nowadays. Drummer/author/clinician Roy Burns and ex-Rogers designer Dave Donohoe have recently teamed up to create Aquarian Accessories Corporation, and are coming up with some new accessory ideas for drummers.

CYMBAL SPRING

Cymbal Spring is an attachment for all cymbal stands which allows free, non-restrictive movement of cymbals. The *Cymbal Spring* replaces the felt and metal washers, tubing and wing nut on a cymbal stand tilter. Its base is hollow, and mounts directly on the tilter threads which are held in place with a thumb-screw (or slotted screw for permanent mounting). The device's main purpose lies within its spring post. When the cymbal is struck, the spring bends following the action of the drumstick and thus allowing the cymbal freer movement. The cymbal itself sits on a round disc lopped by a thin-piece of adhered felt; above it is a metal clip. When squeezed, the clip allows for quick mounting and removal of the cymbal.

There is a smoother movement of the cymbal when used on a *Cymbal Spring*, although I've found it quickens a crash cymbal's decay just slightly. *Cymbal Spring* is being marketed for use with ride cymbals, however, it can be used with crash cymbals, if they are not played really loud. I've never heard of

anyone cracking a ride cymbal, but if you are one of these rare birds, you'll find this accessory a worthy item to have.

Aquarian has recently developed one solely for crash cymbals: the *Heavy-Duty Cymbal Spring*. Drummers who play loudly will find this model very valuable, as it allows strong, energetic playing, without the worry of cracking the cymbal. The harder you hit the cymbal, the harder the device works to protect it. The *Heavy-Duty Cymbal Spring* has a felt top and bottom along with a hard nylon sleeve (which is replaceable). It mounts on tilters the same as its brother. The base spring is fattened up and lengthened, and uses an additional spring inside for double protection, or for back-up in case the outside one fails. The top is not a spring clip, but a threaded felt-covered disc which closes on the nylon sleeve, but does not choke the cymbal's natural movement or tone. The mounting thumbscrew has a tendency to loosen up under loud, continuous playing, so I would suggest using the slotted screw instead.

The whole concept of the *Cymbal Spring* models makes them perhaps the most sensible accessory idea to be marketed in awhile. And, for the price you'd have to pay to replace a cracked cymbal, you could buy more than enough *Cymbal Springs* to protect your entire set-up. As they say, better safe than sorry.

Both the original and *Heavy-Duty Cymbal Springs* retail at \$14.95 each.

KWIK-KEY

There never seems to be a drum key around when you need it most. Aquarian has developed two versions of the drummer's valuable tool: *Kwik-Key* and *Kwik-Key Medallion*. Besides being just a regular drum key, *Kwik-Key* also slays with you all the time. The standard *Kwik-Key* comes with a key ring attachment. When the loop is squeezed, the two end prongs disengage from the key, enabling you to use it when and where it's needed. The *Medallion* uses the same quick-disconnect ring, but also comes packaged with a silver-colored neck cord. Unlike drum-slick necklaces, this piece of jewelry has a *useable* purpose. The key itself is zinc cast with a powder coating, available in red, blue, black, or gold.

I own about 25 drum keys, all scattered about everywhere. *Kwik-Key* was a lifesaver in the studio, when there wasn't one drum key in the whole room. Fortunately, hanging off my car keys was a *Kwik-Key*.

Kwik-Key is a simple idea which should have been thought of long ago. Pearl has come out with a drum key necklace, but their key is too heavy to keep around your neck. Besides being functional, the *Kwik-Key* is also a great conversation piece.

Kwik-Key lists at \$3.35; the *Medallion* at \$4.95.

